

# HALLOWEEN HISTORY IS SPOOK-TACULAR

## Holiday has historical roots

by Melanie Casey

The holiday we know today as Halloween began as a Celtic festival called Samhain more than 2,000 years ago in the United Kingdom.

The Celts celebrated the new year Nov. 1, and they believed that on the night prior (Oct. 31), the worlds of the living and the dead merged and ghosts returned to earth. To stave off these spirits, the Celts dressed in masks so they wouldn't be recognized and tried to placate the wandering ghosts with bowls of food placed outside their doors.

In the 7th century, Pope Boniface designated Nov. 1 as All Saints' Day. Many historians today believe he did this to replace the Celtic (and thus pagan) festival of Samhain.

The evening before All Saints' Day came to be known as All Hallows Eve and later Halloween (from

the Middle English word *Alholowmesse*, meaning All Saints' Day).

In about the year 1,000, the church declared Nov. 2 All Souls' Day – a day meant to honor the dead. It was celebrated similar to Samhain with parades, bonfires and people dressed in costume.

The American tradition of trick-or-treating dates back to early English All Souls' Day parades, when the poor would beg for food and families doled out pastries called "soul cakes." The practice was eventually taken up by children who would visit neighborhood homes in the hopes of getting ale, food or money.

Halloween traditions were brought to the U.S. by immigrants – particularly Irish immigrants – during the mid-19th century. By the mid-20th century, Halloween had become a secular and community-oriented holiday, and today it's the second largest commercial holiday.

source: [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)

*There's more to do on Halloween than trick or treat..*

### Stuttgart

**Haunted House Halloween and Carnival, Oct. 30, 6 to 9 p.m., and Oct. 31, 7 to 10 p.m., in the Patch YS. \$5.**

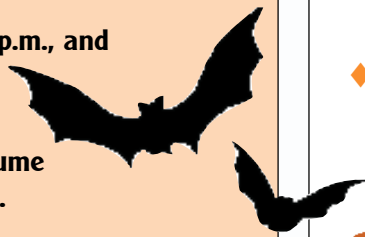
*Slider's Halloween Party with All That, Oct. 31.*

**Stop by the Patch Food Court dressed in your costume Oct. 31, 5 p.m. to closing, and get a free cookie.**

*Free 5 x 7 photo at RB Arts and Photo, Oct. 31, 2 to 5 p.m.*

### Garmisch

**Halloween Carnival and Haunted House with games and hayrides Oct. 31, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Pete Burke Center.**



## Halloween Safety Guidelines

Trick-or-treating will take place in all Stuttgart housing areas Oct. 31, 5 to 7:30 p.m.

In Garmisch's Breitenau Housing Area, trick-or-treating will be 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. These hours will be strictly enforced.

- ◆ Parents should accompany young children; older children should travel in groups.
- ◆ Carry identification at all times.
  - ◆ Toy weapons and military uniforms as costumes **are not permitted.**
- ◆ Wear costumes with reflective tape and carry a flashlight.
- ◆ Stay on sidewalks and don't cross the street between parked cars.

